

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. If such large media conglomerates are able to suspend laws of equal time and pre-election blackout of all but campaign news events, we will truly have a country whose opinion is led by the media rather than a media that reports on the voice of America. In California, stations were not allowed to air Arnold Schwarzenegger movies prior to the recall election and all his appearances on shows had to be matched with offers of equal time for his primary running mates.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.